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Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Identical letters dated 26 February 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Because of the deteriorating situation in Haiti, I have decided to appoint John Reginald Dumas (Trinidad and Tobago) as my Special Adviser on Haiti.

My Special Adviser will closely follow developments in Haiti in order to provide me with ongoing assessments of the political situation. He will examine ways in which the United Nations could enhance contributions to the alleviation of the political, economic and social crises that afflict that country. To that end, he will establish high-level contacts with Governments and regional organizations to identify possible areas of cooperation and joint action. A biographical note is attached (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. Annan

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Annex

Biographical note

The Secretary-General has appointed John Reginald Dumas of Trinidad and Tobago as his Special Adviser on Haiti. Mr. Dumas will assume his functions immediately.

Mr. Dumas has for many years actively participated in multilateral negotiations dealing with specific concerns of his home country and of the Caribbean Community. Mr. Dumas has been called to serve on a variety of task forces, commissions of inquiry and other bodies on the public service and in the business and judicial fields in and outside Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Dumas has an extensive diplomatic background. From 1987 to 1988, he was Ambassador to the United States of America and Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the Organization of American States. From 1985 to 1987, he served as High Commissioner to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean. Prior to his appointment as High Commissioner to Canada, from 1980 to1984, he served as his country's High Commissioner to India, with concurrent accreditation to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan. Between 1973 and 1976, he was Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to Ethiopia, with concurrent accreditation to Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

He was Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and Head of the Public Service from 1988 to 1990 and chaired the Public Service Reform Task Force. Aside from his impressive public service record, Mr. Dumas has participated in a variety of business, communication and cultural ventures. In 1998, he became co-founder of Trinidad and Tobago's Transparency Institute, the national chapter of Transparency International.

Mr. Dumas was educated at the Chaguanas Government School and the Queen's Royal College of Port of Spain. He is a graduate of Cambridge University and was a Carnegie Endowment Fellow at the Institut universitaire de hautes études internationales in Geneva. He is fluent in English and French. His main publication is "In the service of the public: articles and speeches 1963-1993, with commentaries".

Mr. Dumas was born in Trinidad and Tobago on 4 April 1935.